Mr. George Panikulam *(Irinjalakkuda):* What is the amount per mile allotted for the repair of the trunk roads in the Municipality?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* I think for the Irinjakkuda Municipality it is Rs. 600 a mile.

Mr. George Panikulam *(Irinjalakkuda):* What was the condition of those roads when you inspected it last?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* This is the maintenance season of the roads and some of the repairs have not yet been completed.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Nellayi):* Are the roads of the Irinjalakkuda Municipality in a worse condition than the roads of the other Municipalities?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* I cannot say. As I said in the House just now this is the time when repairs are being done. At present the roads in the Trichur Municipality even are not in a satisfactory condition. But they will be in good condition after the repairs are over.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam):* May I know whether the Chief Engineer checks to see that the amounts allotted are spent properly?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* There is a supervision by the P.W.D., of these roads.

ROAD FROM KOMBODINJAMAKKAL TO VELLANGALLUR—REPAIRS TO

42. Mr. George Panikulam *(Irinjalakkuda):* Will Government be pleased to state whether the Government is aware of the present miserable condition of the road from Kombodinjamakkal to Vellangallur and will its repair be attended to before the close of this year?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* The repair work has already been taken up and will be completed this year,

ROAD FROM KALLETTUMKARA TO THAZHAKKAT—CONSTRUCTING

43. Mr. George Panikulam *(Irinjalakkuda):* Will Government be pleased to state.—when will the work of constructing the road from Kallettumkara to Thazhakkat, which is a long pending affair, be taken up?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):*

The work has been provided for in the programme of the present Road Board. It will be taken up for execution after the programme has been approved by the Government.

Mr. George Panikulam *(Irinjalakkuda):* Is it still pending with the Government?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* It has been approved.

Mr. George Panikulam *(Irinjalakkuda):* Will it be taken up soon?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* Yes.

MATERNITY LEAVE—GRANT OF—ADDITIONAL EXPENDITURE ON ACCORDING

44. Mr. M. Krishna Menon *(Trichur-North):* Will Government be pleased to state whether additional expenditure is borne by the Government owing to maternity leave arrangements?

Mr. P. V. Raphel *(Comptroller of Finance and Accounts):*

Yes.

Mr. M. Krishna Menon *(Trichur-North):* Have the Government any objection to follow a policy of recruiting only unmarried ladies into the service because the Government is incurring a huge loss on account of this maternity leave arrangements?

Mr. President: That is a question which should be directed to the Chief Medical Officer.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam):* Are there not rules in other governments also, probably India or outside, that only unmarried ladies ought to be appointed in government service.

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Comptroller of Finance and Accounts):* I am not aware of any such les that unmarried girls only should be appointed. As a matter of fact I know that married girls are appointed.

TRAVELLING ALLOWANCE—NEWSPAPER ARTICLE REGARDNIG

45. Mr. K. Narayana Menon *(Mulakunnathukavu):* Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) whether they came across a note entitled (ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരുടെ യാത്രപ്പടി) (the travelling allowance of officers) in the "Jenmabhoomi", dated 1st Edavam 1119, page 5:

(*b*) will Government please enquire into the allegation contained in the note that a certain high official in the State service is drawing inordinately large amounts by way of Travelling allowance:

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(*c*) if there be truth in the allegation will they please take appropriate action:

(*d*) if there be no truth in the allegation will the Government please take appropriate action against the Editor of the paper for attempting to lower the prestige of the Government officials by such publication?

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Comptroller of Finance and Accounts):*

(a) Yes:

(*b* to *d*.) The statement referred to is vague and indefinite and Government are not prepared to undertake an enquiry unless more precise information is supplied to them.

Mr. K. Narayana Menon *(Mulakunnathukavu):* May I know whether the number of officers contemplated by that article as "high" is not very limited in the State.

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Comptroller of Finance and Accounts):* The difficulty was who is to be classified as a high officer.

Mr. K. Narayana Menon *(Mulakunnathukavu):* Will not the Government have some idea as to the word "high".

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Comptroller of Finance and Accounts):* All gazetted officers are considered to be fairly high officers in the State.

Mr. K. Narayana Menon *(Mulakunnathukavu):* May I know whether all the gazetted officers are circuiting officers?

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Comptroller of Finance and Accounts):* Not all of them. But many are circuiting officers.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam):* Is it a fact that the clerks in the subordinate offices are getting lesser T. A. than peons now?

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Comptroller of Finance and Accounts):* Clerks do not get lesser T.A. than the peons.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam):* Are they not able to draw only smaller T.A.?

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Comptroller of Finance and Accounts):* Clerks get higher T.A. rates than peons. They get 1½ third class while the peons get only single third class.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam):* Daily allowance, please?

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Comptroller of Finance and Accounts):* Re. 1 for clerks in the lowest grades and for peons also.

Mr. K. Narayana Menon *(Mulakunnathukavu):* Do the Government expect the House to place the finger upon their officials?

Mr. President: Order, Order. The Hon'ble Member is referring to an article in a newspaper and if a newspaper brings such a charge against a government officer it seems to me reasonable to expect the author of the article in the newspaper himself to communicate in some way with the Government.

Mr. K. Narayana Menon *(Mulakunnathukavu):* Thank you, Sir.

FIREWOOD—PERMISSION TO CUT

46. Mr. K. Kunhirama Menon *(Cheruthuruthi):* Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) the number of acres of forests permitted to be cut for firewood in the years 1117, 1118 and 1119 respectively;

(*b*) the number of petitions received for permission for cutting firewood in 1117, 1118 and 1119;

(*c*) the names of the above petitioners?

Mr. S. Venkiteswaran *(Conservator of Forests):*

(*a*) No specific area was set apart wholly for the purpose in 1117, but firewood from regeneration areas and plantations were allowed besides small quantities from the beats for *bona fide* requirements.

(*b*) and (*c*) The time and labour that would be involved in gathering the information would not be commensurate with the benefits accruing therefrom.

I may be permitted to supplement the printed answer by adding "In 18 and 19 most of the firewood removed was from Hill Paddy clearance".

Mr. K. Narayana Menon *(Mulakunnathukavu):* May I know whether the "*bona fide* requirements" in (*a*) means *bona fide* requirements of consumption or for sale?

Mr. S. Venkiteswaran *(Conservator of Forests):* Small quantities for domestic purposes.

FIREWOOD—CONTRACTORS ALLOWED TO DEAL IN

47. Mr. K. Kunhirama Menon *(Cheruthuruthi):* Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) number and names of contractors who are permitted to deal in firewood in the years 1117, 1118 and 1119 respectively;

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